

Message Text

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21

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS STATE 085428

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT:TRAVEL GRANT FOR U.S. BASKETBALL COACH

REF: BELGRADE 1694

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH EMBASSY REQUEST TO ISSUE TRAVEL-ONLY STAG GRANT TO BASKETBALL COACH. HOWEVER, AS GUDGER HAS ALREADY RECEIVED FIVE STAG GRANTS (TWO TO YUGOSLAVIA) ANOTHER ONE AT THIS TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

2. DEPARTMENT PROPOSES INSTEAD THAT YUGOSLAVS CONSIDER GEORGE STANICH, BASKETBALL COACH AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE IN TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA. STANICH, A FORMER ALL-AMERICAN BASKETBALL PLAYER AND OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST, SPENT 1970-71 IN YUGOSLAVIA ON SABBATICAL LEAVE, COACHING IN ALL SIX REPUBLICS. STANICH (WHO SPEAKS SERBO-CROATIAN) HAS ALSO TAUGHT AND COACHED AT SEVERAL SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMPS (INCLUDING THE JOHN WOODEN BASKETBALL CAMP IN CALIFORNIA.)

3. SINCE STANICH NEEDS FIRM DECISION ASAP, WILL APPRECIATE YOUR LEARNING YUGOSLAV REACTION SOONEST.

4. IF EMBASSY INTENDS THIS TO BE RECURRING REQUEST, AS IT APPEARS TO BE, POST SHOULD RANK IN APPROPRIATE ORDER ON CPP
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AS PROVIDED IN CM-157. KISSINGER

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